

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LIMA 03781 110326Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 /061 W

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R 101702Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4730

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 3781

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PE

SUBJECT: MORALES BERMUDEZ AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES

REF: LIMA 3479, LIMA 3298

SUMMARY, THE ANTICIPATED PRESIDENTIAL DIALOGUE WITH POLITICAL PARTIES IS UNDERWAY. MORALES BERMUDEZ MET WITH THE APRA AND THE POPULAR CHRISTIAN PARTY MAY 5 AND HAS SCHEDULED MEETINGS WITH OTHER POLITICAL GROUPS. THE INITIAL EFFECT HAS BEEN SALUTARY AND HOPEFUL. SHOULD DIALOGUE DEVELOP ALONG LINES PROJECTED BY THE PARTIES, THERE WOULD BE PROGRESSIVE CIVILIAN PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT IMPROVING GOP STABILITY AND PERHAPS CONTRIBUTINT TO THE REDUCTION OF TENSIONS WITH PERU'S NEIGHBORS. END SUMMARY.

1. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE RECENT ARMED FORCES "VOTE OF CONFIDENCE" IN PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ (REFTELS), THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (COAP) CONTACTED POLITICAL PARTIES TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO DIRECT DIALOGUE WITH MORALES BERMUDEZ. THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCART PARTY (PDC) AND ACCION POPULAR SOCIALISTA (APS), BOTH MINOR PARTIES WHICH HAVE SUPPORTED THE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LIMA 03781 110326Z

REVOLUTION, WERE THE FIRST TO BE CALLED. ON MAY 5 THE APRA AND THE POPULAR CHRISTIAN PARTY (PPC) MENT WITH MORALES BERMUDEZ; MEETINGS WITH ACCION POPULAR (AP) AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) ARE SET FOR MAY 13. ACCORDING TO MINISTER OF INTERIOR CISNEROS, MORALES BERMDUEZ IS PREPARED TO DIALOUGE WITH ALL POLITICAL GROUPS. EVEN THE RECENTLY-ORGANIZED REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST PARTY (PSR) LED BY VELASCO-EAR "REVOLUTIONARY MILITANTS" WHO

CONDEMN CURRENT GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND MORALES BERMUDEZ SPECIFICALLY FOR HAVING DELIVERED PERU "INTO THE SERVICE OF MILITATIONALS AND IMPERIALISM" MIGHT BE HEARD OUT.

2. ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN INCREASING PRIVATE CONTACTS BETWEEN THE MILGOV AND MAJOR CIVILIAN PARTIES, THE FIRST PUBLIC DIALOGUE IS OF SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE IN FURTHER COMMITTING THE GOP TO A TRANSFER OF POWER. FOR THE APRA, DIRECT TALKS WITH MORALES BERMUDEZ SYMBOLIZE HOPES FOR AN END TO THE LONG YEARS OF ARMY/APRA ENMITY. AND THE AP CONSIDERS ITSELF SOMEWHAT VINDICATED AS THE REVOLUTION WHICH VILIFIED ITS LEADERS AS TRAITORS NOW REQUESTS DIALOGUE WITH THEM. ALTHOUGH APRA CHIEF HAYA DE LA TORRE DID NOT ATTEND THE MAY 5 MEETING AND FORMER PRESIDENT BELAUNDE (JUST RETURNED FROM WASHINGTON) HAS INDICATED HE WILL NOT ACCOMPANY THE AP DELEGATION TO ITS FIRST MEETING, APRA SOURCES TELL THE EMBASSY THAT BOTH MEN WILL SOON MEET PRIVATELY WITH PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ.

3. THESE FIRST CONVERSATIONS HAVE DEALT PRIMARILY WITH POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE GOVERNMENT PLAN TUPAC AMARU. THE PARTIES EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS WHILE PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ LISTENED ATTENTIVELY, APPARENTLY COMMENTING FROM TIME TO TIME ON THE NEED FOR NATIONAL UNITY, COMMON CIVILIAN/MILITARY GOALS AND EVEN ON THE DESIRABILITY OF A BORAD UNITY FRONT OR AGREED PROGRAM FOR CIVILIAN PARTIES (PARTIES WILL BE EAGER TO TEST VOTER APPEAL BUT MAY AGREE TO SOME FORM OF NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT). APRA SOURCES TOLD EHT EMBASSY THAT MORALES BERMUDEZ REFERRED TO AN ELECTED CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AS A "LAUDABLE" PROPOSAL.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LIMA 03781 110326Z

4. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, MAJOR PROPOSALS IN INTERVIEWS TO DATE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

APRA -- GENERAL ELECTIONS TO BE CONVOKED BY 1980; AN ELECTED CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY BY DECEMBER 1978; ELECTION OF A NATIONAL ECONOMIC CONGRESS WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS BY JULY 1978; AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS BY DECEMBER 1977 IF POSSIBLE. APRA LEADERS EXPRESS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SATISFACTION WITH THE OPENING DIALOUGE.

5. PPC -- FULL TRANSFER OF POWER TO CIVILIANS BY 1980; RETENTION OF THE 1933 CONSTITUTION; AND ELECTIONS FOR CONGRESS IN 1978 WITH PRESIEENTIAL ELECTIONS FOLLOWING IN 1979. PARTY LEADER LUIS BEDOYA REYES ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO SEEK THE PRESIDENCY.

6. APS - EXTENSION OF SUFFERAGE TO ALL CITIZENS INCLUDING ILLITERATES OF 18 YEARS OR OLDER (APRA AND AP OPPOSE THE VOTE FOR ILLITERATES); FULL AMNESTY FOR "POLITICAL AND LABOR PRISONERS";

EXPROPRIATION OF FOREIGN ENTERPRISES; REJECTION OF IMF PRESURES; CANCELLATION OF THE AGRARIAN DEBT; AND OTHER MEASURES ASSOCIATED WITH THE MORE RADICAL POLICIES OF THE VELASCO ERA.

7. COMMENT: THE PRESIDENTIAL DIALOGUES ARE HAVING A SALUTARY POLITICAL

EFFECT AS MAJOR CIVILIAN PARTIES EXPERIENCE WHAT MAY BE THE BEGINNING OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT. IF DIALOGUE AND PARTICIPATION DEVELOP ALONG HOPED-FOR LINES, THE PERUVIAN POLITICAL SCENE MAY BE PEACEFULLY AND PROFOUNDLY TRANSFORMED BY 1980. THAT TRANSFORMATION COULD INFLUENCE NOT ONLY THE DOMESTIC SCENE BUT ALSO PERU'S RELATIONS WITH HER NEIGHBORS. TO THE EXTENT THAT APRA, AP AND OTHER NON-MARXIST GROUPS SHARE POLITICAL POWER, RESIDUAL REVANCHIST SENTIMENT TOWARD CHILE WOULD BE ERODED, FOR REVANCHISM HAS BEEN HARBORED PRIMARILY IN THE ARMED FORCES.

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PAGE 04 LIMA 03781 110326Z

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